

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

----- 048217

R 241000Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4638

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, MZ, SF

SUBJECT: NUMBER OF MOZAMBIQUE WORKERS TO SOUTH AFRICAN
MINES INCREASES

1. DAILY NOTICIAS MAY 21 CARRIES ARTICLE ENTITLED
"MOZAMBIQUE DEVELOPMENT WILL DIMINISH NUMBER OF DEPARTURES FOR
SOUTH AFRICAN MINES." IN TEXT, ARTICLE GIVES FOLLOWING UNSOURCED
FIGURES ON NUMBERS OF MOZAMBICANS IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES:

1971-79,700 DEPARTED TO RSA, 88,488 RETURNED

1972-80,049 DEPARTED; 83,336 RETURNED

1973-79,446 DEPARTED; 71,309 RETURNED

1974-90,179 DEPARTED; 76,378 RETURNED

1975-102, 725 DEPARTED; 83,456 RETURNED

THE ARTICLE BLAMED THE INCREASE IN NUMBERS ON FLOODS, ECONOMIC
SABOTAGE, OVERPOPULATION OF SOUTHERN ZONES, CONTINUING REACTIONARY
IDEAS OF WORKERS (SUCHAS EARNING MONEY FOR LOBOLA PAYMENT TO
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BUY WIVES), AND TRADITIONAL HABITS. THE ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT

THE SORKERS WILL DISCOVER THAT THEY ARE OPPRESSED AND HUMILIATED IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THAT THIS, COUPLED WITH THE CONTINUING EFFORTS BY FRELIMO TO INCULCATE THE PROPER LINE INTO ALL CITIZENS, PLUS ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN MOZAMBIQUE WILL RESULT IN A FUTURE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA. THENARTICLE DENIED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GPRM WAS PUTTING ANY OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF THOSE WHO WISHED TO GO SOUTH TO WORK, NOTING THAT RECENT RUMORS ABOUT WORKERS BEING REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS BEFORE GOING TO SA WERE A NEFARIOUS PLOT.

2. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL REPORT FROM WENELA, THE SOUTH AFRICAN RECRUITING ORGANIZATION. THE STATISTICS FROM THAT REPORT SHOW AN EVEN LARGER NUMBER OF MOZAMBICAN MINEWORKERS RECRUITED. THIS PUBLICATION STATED THAT 115,309 MOZAMBIQUE WORKERS HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN 1975. IT ALSO NOTED THAT IN 1974 THERE WERE 101,848 MOZAMBICANS IN THE MINES, COMPRISING 28.02 PER CENT OF THE FOREIGN LABOR FORCE, AND IN 1975 THERE WERE 118,030 MOZAMBICANS IN THE MINES, COMPRISING 32.37 PER CENT OF THE FOREIGN LABOR FORCE.

3. COMMENT: WE REGARD THE NOTICIAS ARTICLE AS SEMI-OFFICIAL. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ITEM IS THE DENIAL THAT HE GPRM INTENDS TO STOP WORKERS FROM GOING TO THE MINES. IN FACT WE BELIEVE THE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM MAY BE HARASSED AND THE WORKERS HARANGUED, BUT FOR THE PRESENT THE GPRM NEEDS THE GOLD EARNED BY THE WORKERS TOO MUCH TO FOLLOW ITS NATURAL DESIRE TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM.

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